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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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7-7-1967

From/To: June Wood (Chalk's reply filed first)

June Wood

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July 7, 1967

Miss June Wood  
1972 Meadowbrook  
Prescott, Arizona

Dear June,

Thank you for your letter of June 26. It was a pleasure to hear from you, especially after talking to brother McKnight about his enjoyable flight with you. Unfortunately, I know of no positions open here at this time. We would like nothing better than to have your competence associated with Herald of Truth. You would be a very valuable addition to our staff, but there are no positions open. I am passing your offer on to Mr. Tom Hudgins, our personnel director, with the hopes that you might be interested in anything that would become available in the future.

Your concern with the problem in the church there is a very genuine one that reflects the kind of concern that a Christian should manifest. Being this far removed from the scene, I am very hesitant to make any suggestions, especially regarding what you ought to do with reference to the eldership of the local church. You and your family must do everything in your power to preserve your own relationships with God. The willingness to live as Christ directs, and to make sure that His attitudes are your attitudes, will certainly provide you the kind of strength necessary to go through such a trying period. Without being pessimistic, I can offer you little hope regarding the change of leadership within the local church. It appears that you do need the wisdom and counsel of someone who knows the situation intimately and who might be able to talk with the local leadership about this problem. Your sister's desire to meet with the elders is an admirable one, and something good has to come out of that. I assure you of my prayers and interest, and I hope that you and your family will maintain the spirit of Christ and continue to practise Christianity regardless of what others may do in your community.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk  
Radio Speaker

JAC:hm

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Y

June Wood  
1972 Meadowbrook Road  
Prescott, Arizona 86301

June 26, 1967

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
HERALD OF TRUTH - Radio  
P. O. Box 2439  
Abilene, Texas 79604

Dear brother Chalk:

It was such a nice surprise to be seated by brother McKnight and I enjoyed very much our conversation even though it was brief. He was taking advantage of an opportunity for some much-needed rest at the beginning of our trip. He was very kind to send me some literature on the forthcoming tour, but financially I will be unable to join the group.

First of all, I would like to ask you about the position as your secretary. If there is a slim possibility of it becoming available, please let me know. Brother McKnight told me that your secretary does not take shorthand and I was shocked. For the great work you are doing, I feel you deserve a secretary and with the help of God, I'm sure a little financial sacrifice wouldn't hurt me.

I'm also writing you for another reason. You know I respect you very much and acknowledge you as a person concerned with our Lord and the furtherance of His gospel. Since returning to Prescott, I have encountered a very sad situation in the church which existed in a mild form prior to my leaving, but what I thought had been corrected. It is not the result of a Christ-centered church. You see, the situation is dying Christians. Why are they dying? Because of unscripturally-qualified men serving as elders, no love, people who are afraid to say anything because of feelings of others even though it is for the good of the church, jealousies, busy-bodies, etc. I could go on and on.

My mother and my sister are very discouraged (my father is deceased). You see, they have been ridiculed because of their hospitality, accused of partiality to some of the members and have been criticized for things that have not done. And I thought New York was a mission field! This is something one cannot take lightly -- I can't just leave knowing that this situation exists. There are a few other families who are being treated the same way. I know the old saying about two sides to every story, but when one is trying scripturally to carry out God's word, what is the other side? Mother cannot leave Prescott because of her Asthmatic condition, so she makes the best of it. The only consolation is we are going for the Lord and not for any human being. As one lady said, "I haven't anything against the Lord." The elders will not come to them, so my sister is going to have a talk with all the elders together on Saturday. The preacher is very unskilled and has proven himself to be other than a loving Christian man.

Brother Chalk, the church needs help so much. The situation is even more severe than I presented it. We are losing members to the other congregation in town which is against orphans homes, etc. No man has the intestinal fortitude to make a stand for Christ. Will you help us, please?

I look forward to hearing from you, realizing your very busy schedule.

Sincerely,

June Wood